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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,519	10/06/2003	Manabu Hashikura	39.028-AG	2518
29453	7590	06/14/2005	EXAMINER	
JUDGE PATENT FIRM RIVIERE SHUKUGAWA 3RD FL. 3-1 WAKAMATSU-CHO NISHINOMIYA-SHI, HYOGO, 662-0035 JAPAN			JAGAN, MIRELLYS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,519

Applicant(s)

HASHIKURA ET AL.

Examiner

Mirellys Jagan

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 11-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/28/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,259,123 to Tymkewicz.

Tymkewicz discloses a temperature gauge comprising:

a thermocouple having a tip end;

a contact exposed in the tip end of the thermocouple and contacting a temperature measuring site in a subject (9); and

detachable retaining means for mechanically pressing upon the contact to retain it against the site;

wherein the retaining means is a retaining member (11/4) that screws into the subject for clamping the contact in-between the retaining member and the subject.

Referring to claim 3, the retaining member is a cylindrical form (11) having male threads in its lateral surface for screwing together with the female threads of the subject so that one end face of the member (e.g., 4) presses the contact onto the subject.

Art Unit: 2859

Referring to claim 6, the retaining member (11) has a through-hole penetrating from one end face to another end face thereof so that lead lines from the thermocouple can be passed through the through-hole.

Referring to claim 7, the retaining member (11) in an end face thereof is furnished with a recess (e.g., into which 4 is positioned) into which a communicating through hole opens so that the contact and lead lines accompanying the contact can be housed in the recess.

Referring to claim 9, a tubular member (1) either joined to or furnished integrally with an end face of the member opposite where the contact is clamped for accommodating lead lines (2/3) from the thermocouple.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tymkewicz in view of Japanese Patent 2002164291 to Shiyoku.

Tymkewicz discloses a temperature gauge as recited in claim 1, as stated above in paragraph 2. However, Tymkewicz does not disclose using the temperature gauge in a semiconductor manufacturing equipment having a ceramic susceptor.

Shiyoku discloses providing a thermocouple temperature gauge in a semiconductor manufacturing equipment having a ceramic susceptor. The temperature gauge is placed within

Art Unit: 2859

the ceramic susceptor and bonded therein for measuring the temperature of a wafer as it is being progress by the manufacturing equipment (see figures 3 and 4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the temperature gauge disclosed by Tymkewicz by mounting it in a ceramic susceptor of a semiconductor manufacturing equipment since Shiyoku teaches that it is useful to provide a ceramic susceptor with a thermocouple temperature gauge in order to measure the temperature of a wafer as it is being progress by the manufacturing equipment.

5. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiyoku in view of Tymkewicz.

Shiyoku discloses a thermocouple temperature gauge in a semiconductor manufacturing equipment having a ceramic susceptor. The temperature gauge is placed within the ceramic susceptor and bonded therein for measuring the temperature of a wafer as it is being processed by the manufacturing equipment.

Shiyoku does not disclose the thermocouple temperature gauge being as recited in claim 1.

Tymkewicz discloses a temperature gauge as recited in claim 1, as stated above in paragraph 2. Tymkewicz discloses that the thermocouple temperature gauge is beneficial over other contact thermocouples since the mounting of the temperature gauge allows the sensing contact to be biased against the surface being measured to provide improved response to temperature changes.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the ceramic susceptor disclosed by Shiyoku by replacing the

Art Unit: 2859

temperature gauge with a temperature gauge as disclosed by Tymkewicz in order to obtain improved temperature measurements in the susceptor.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tymkewicz in view of U.S. Patent 3,751,305 to Huebscher.

Tymkewicz discloses a temperature gauge having all of the limitations of claim 4, as stated above in paragraph 2, except for the other face of the retaining member having a groove for being turned by a turning tool when the retaining member is screwed in to the subject.

Huebscher discloses a retaining member comprising a screw (F) for threading into a subject (E) whose temperature is to be measured by a temperature sensor. The screw has a groove for being turned by a turning tool, e.g., screwdriver, when the retaining member is screwed in to the subject (see figure 8).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the temperature gauge of Tymkewicz by adding a groove for a turning tool, as taught by Huebscher, in order to facilitate threading the temperature gauge to the subject being measured.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tymkewicz in view of U.S. Patent 4,904,091 to Ward.

Tymkewicz discloses a temperature gauge having all of the limitations of claim 11, as stated above in paragraph 2, except for the thermal expansion coefficient of the member being about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the subject.

Ward discloses a temperature gauge comprising a thermocouple having retaining means for screwing together into a subject being measured. The thermal expansion coefficient of the retaining means is about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the subject (see figures 1 and 2; and abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the temperature gauge of Tymkewicz by making the member of a material that has a thermal expansion coefficient that is about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the subject, as taught by Tymkewicz, since similar coefficients will thermally expand and contract in a like manner and prevent loosening of the threading connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 8 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the following in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims:

A temperature gauge comprising a recess having a depth that measures less than the thermocouple lead lines in diameter (see claim 8); or a sealing member for sealing gastight either an end face of the retaining member where the contact is clamped or sealing distal-endwise a tubular member joined to or furnished integrally with the retaining member (see claim 10).

Art Unit: 2859

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patent and publication disclose wafer holders having a thermocouple for measuring its temperature:

U.S. Patent 5,876,119 to Ishikawa et al

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0027942 to Nishijima et al

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2859


however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mirellys Jagan whose telephone number is 571-272-2247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 11AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJ
June 7, 2005


GAIL VERBITSKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER